

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 INR-07 L-03 ACDA-07

NSAE-00 PA-01 SS-15 PRS-01 SP-02 USIA-06 TRSE-00

DODE-00 H-01 NSC-05 /065 W

-----231836Z 059363 /46

R 231758Z MAR 77

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0952

INFO AMCONSUL BORDEAUX

AMCONSUL LYON

AMCONSUL MARSEILLE

AMCONSUL NICE

AMCONSUL STRASBOURG

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PGOV, PFOR, FR

SUBJECT: FRENCH PRESS ON VANCE/COT AND KANAPA/EMBASSY

PARIS MEETINGS

REF: PARIS 8181

SUMMARY: A NUMBER OF FRENCH NEWSPAPERS HAVE RUN SOME FORM OF STORY THIS WEEK REGARDING US REACTION TO A POSSIBLE GOVERNMENT OF THE LEFT (INTERNATIONAL HERALD TRIBUNE ARTICLE REPORTED REPTTEL). ACCOUNTS ARE BASED ON SOCIALIST DEPUTY JEAN-PIERRE COT'S STATEMENTS REGARDING HIS AND MICHEL ROCARD'S JANUARY MEETING WITH SECRETARY VANCE AND ON GENERALLY INACCURATE REPORTS OF EMBOFFS' MEETING WITH JEAN KANAPA, PCF POLITBUREAU MEMBER RESPONSIBLE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS. SYNOPSIS OF STORIES FOLLOWS. END SUMMARY.

1. LE NOUVEL OBSERVATEUR, SOCIALIST-LEANING WEEKLY

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MAGAZINE, PUBLISHED STORY IN MARCH 12 ISSUE STATING THAT THE "WINDS HAVE CHANGED", THAT EMBASSY CONTACTS WITH THE PCF (EVEN INCLUDING DELEGATION WHICH DELIVERED CONCORDE PETITION TO EMBASSY), FORMERLY INCONCEIVABLE, WERE NOW POSSIBLE. STORY CLAIMS THAT EMBASSY REQUESTED MEETING WITH KANAPA TO HEAR EXPLANATION OF HIS RECENT "FOREIGN AFFAIRS" ARTICLE. NOUVEL OBSERVATEUR GOES ON

TO REPORT "RUMOR", UNCONFIRMED, THAT KANAPA VISITED EMBASSY AND TOLD AMBASSADOR THAT THE PCF WOULD NOT ASK FOR MODIFICATIONS IN FRENCH ALLIANCES. AMBASSADOR THEN ALLEGEDLY TOLD KANAPA THAT CARTER ADMINISTRATION WOULD NOT OPPOSE AN EVENTUAL GOVERNMENT OF THE LEFT.

2. LES ECHOS, FINANCIAL DAILY, CONCLUDES THAT COT/ROCARD AND KANAPA MEETINGS LEAD TO CONCLUSION THAT A GOVERNMENT OF THE LEFT WOULD NOT COMPROMISE US/FRENCH RELATIONS. ARTICLE ALSO REFERENCES BRZEZINSKI PIECE IN FOREIGN AFFAIRS ON PROBLEMS POSED FOR MOSCOW BY EVOLUTION OF WESTERN EUROPEAN COMMUNIST PARTIES AND REFERS TO ALLEGED VANCE POSITION THAT "ONE MUST REACT PRAGMATICALLY TO A FLUID EUROPEAN SITUATION."

3. FRANCE-SOIR MARCH 24 CREDITS THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION WITH A "REALISM" WHICH RENDERS INOPERATIVE THE FEARS OF THE FORD AND KISSINGER ADMINISTRATION REGARDING COMMUNIST PARTICIPATION IN FRENCH AND ITALIAN GOVERNMENTS. BOTH KANAPA AND COT/ROCARD MEETINGS TAKEN AS EXAMPLE OF THIS REALISM.

4. LE MONDE MARCH 23 SAYS LEFT VICTORY IN MUNICIPALS VIEWED "WITH A CERTAIN INDIFFERENCE" IN US AND REITERATES CARTER STATEMENTS THAT US HAS NO INTENTION OF INTERVENING IN INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF FRANCE OR ITALY. KANAPA MEETING, ALLEGEDLY HELD AT US EMBASSY, SEEN AS REAFFIRMATION OF THIS POSITION.

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5. FAR-LEFT DAILY LIBERATION VIEWS KANAPA MEETING AS CONFIRMATION OF "FUNDAMENTAL CHANGE" IN US POLICY, AS REFLECTED EARLIER IN CARTER STATEMENTS (DIRECTED TOWARD ITALY) THAT US HAD "NO INTENTION OF INTERFERING IN THE AFFAIRS OF WESTERN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES WHERE THE COMMUNISTS MIGHT COME TO POWER." ARTICLE CLAIMS SUCH PCF CONTACTS WOULD HAVE BEEN IMPOSSIBLE DURING KISSINGER ERA. STORY DOES NOTE THAT CARTER WOULD PREFER TO SEE CURRENT MAJORITY REMAIN IN POWER.

6. LE FIGARO MARCH 22, LE MATIN DE PARIS MARCH 23, AND TFI TELEVISION MARCH 21 ALL REPORTED NEW YORK TIMES STORY (REFTEL). EUROPE ONE RADIO MARCH 22 REPORTED THAT "CARTER ADMINISTRATION DOES NOT CONSIDER THAT THE POSSIBLE PARTICIPATION OF THE COMMUNISTS IN THE GOVERNMENT WOULD ENDANGER FRANCO-US RELATIONS."
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TASS MARCH 22 REPORTS KANAPA MEETING AND SAYS THAT "US SOURCES" INDICATED ENCOUNTER CONCERNED PCF ATTITUDE TOWARD NATO.

7. EMBASSY HAS RECEIVED INDICATIONS THAT HUMANITE-DIMANCHE, SPECIALE DERNIERE, NEWSWEEK AND CANARD ENCHAINE MAY CARRY STORY IN NEAR FUTURE.
GAMMON

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